ATHERSTONE,
March, 1937.

To the Atherstone Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December, 1936.

1.—The district consists of twelve parishes. The population at the last Census was 20,982, distributed as follows:—

WARWICKSHIRE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Atherstone	2889	3070	5959
Ansley	1047	960	2007
Bentley and Merevale	187	171	358
Baddesley	814	723	1537
Baxterley	239	199	438
Hartshill	1324	1238	2562
Grendon	446	427	873
Mancetter and Oldbury	425	409	834
Polesworth	3328	2953	6281
Caldecote			133
			20,982

The estimate of resident population at mid-year 1936 is 22,060—and it is on this figure that the vital statistics have been taken.

Deaths of persons serving with H.M. Forces are allocated to their area of residence.

2.—The vital statistics reckoned on the figure of 22,060 are as follows:—

	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Populaton.
Live Births	390	11	401	19·4
Still Births	14	Nil	14	
Deaths			226	11·2

For England and Wales the live birth rate was 14·8; and the death rate 12·1 per 1,000 of population.

Thirty-one infants, under the age of one year, died in the district during 1936, giving an infant mortality of 64·9 per 1000 live births.

Deaths in the district during the year were due to:—

Kidney disease 7; Puerperal sepsis 1; Congenital debility and Premature birth 16; Violence 16; Cerebral Hæmorrhage 11; Heart disease 53; Bronchitis 5; Pneumonia 11; Appendicitis 1; Scarlet Fever 2; Whooping Cough 3; Diphtheria 1; Influenza 7; Cerebro-spinal Fever 2; Pulmonary Tuberculosis 11; Cancer 23.

Male deaths were 107 and Female deaths 119.

Male births were 202 and Female births 199.

3.—INFANT WELFARE.—There are Centres at Atherstone, Hartshill and Dordon. Each Centre is managed by a Committee of ladies, who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and the local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

4.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The numbers of cases of notifiable infectious disease during 1936 were:

Scarlet Fever 176; Diphtheria 62; Enteric Fever 1; Pneumonia 75; Puerperal Fever 1; Puerperal Pyrexia 4; Erysipelas 16.

5.—ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—178 cases were treated in Hospital during 1936, namely —18 cases of Diphtheria and 160 cases of Scarlet Fever.

I am, Yours truly,

HENRY R. FISHER, M.B. & B.Ch. (Cantab),
M.O.H.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 28th annual report dealing with the work carried out in my department for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS AND NUISANCES.

271 notices were served during the year for the abatement of nisances and other sanitary requirements. Most of these have been complied with and the few outstanding at the end of the year will, I anticipate, be shortly dealt with.

The conversion of the old type of privies into water closets is proceeding very satisfactory, and shortly I hope that I shall be able to report that all these insanitary conveniences have been cleared away in the parts of the district where sewers are available. 45 water closets were provided last year in this manner.

The removal of ashpits and the provision of galvanized iron ashbins in place thereof is engaging my earnest attention. I have been successful in having had 91 houses provided with ashbins instead of the old unsatisfactory and very often insanitary ashpit. It should be noted that many ashpits comply with the regulations, therefore, the provision of ashbins in place thereof means that a tactful persuasion must be employed to ensure this improvement.

No legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances have been necessary.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is undertaken by your Council in the Parishes of Ansley, Atherstone, Baddesley Ensor, Grendon, Hartshill, Mancetter and Polesworth. The work generally has been carried out very satisfactorily, but I have had considerable trouble with the Contractors in the Parishes of Ansley, Grendon and part of the Parish of Polesworth. I am taking such measures as I think will be satisfactory. The cost of this service as based on the amount of the present contracts is approximately as follows:—

Ansley	£210 per year;	10/1½	per house per year;	or	2⅓d.	weekly.
Atherstone..	£450 per year;	9/9	per house per year;	or	2¼d.	weekly.
Baddesley ...	£140 per year;	7/6	per house per year;	or	1⅔d.	weekly.
Grendon	£105 per year;	6/9	per house per year;	or	1½d.	weekly.
Hartshill. ...	£350 per year;	10/6	per house per year;	or	2¾d.	weekly.
Mancetter ...	£ 80 per year;	8/5	per house per year;	or	2d.	weekly.
Polesworth ..	£475 per year;	8/8	per house per year;	or	2d.	weekly.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The register of these premises now contains the names of 103 persons—73 wholesalers and 30 retailers who produce the milk they sell. In addition to this there are 16 retailers who obtain their supplies from wholesale producers or from outside this district. 7 of these retailers are licensed to supply accredited milk. 46 of the wholesale producers are licensed for the production of accredited milk. 7 Certificates of Registration have been granted during the year, and 3 removed fram the register, these persons having left the district. 14 cowsheds have been provided with improvements with regard to light, ventilation, paving, etc., and 2 new cowsheds have been built.

45 samples of milk were submitted for examination for the presence of T.B. Bacilli. Two of these showed living T.B. Bacilli to be present. The particulars of these were forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health who has taken the necessary action.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The register of these premises now contains the particulars of 74 workshops and 7 factories in the district. 9 Notices were served, 2 of these for the provision of means of escape in case of fire; 4 for insufficient or unsuitable sanitary conveniences; and 3 for lime-washing or cleaning.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All houses where infectious disease has been present have been disinfected with "Formalin" spray or vapour and the infected bedding, clothing, etc., removed to the Isolation Hospital to be passed through the steam disinfector.

[P.T.O.]

CANAL BOATS.

22 boats were inspected during the year and 3 notices were served for the various infringments met with. The boats were registered to accommodate 68 persons.

Occupying the cabins were 20 men, 18 women and 13 children—a total of 51 persons. The cabins were kept in a very good condition generally. No case of infectious disease was discovered.

WATER SUPPLY.

6 samples of water from wells supplying 23 houses were taken during the year. These were found to be unfit for domestic use, and a supply of water was laid on from your Council's mains.

HOUSING.

A great deal of work has been carried out during the year in connection with the second part of your Slum Clearance Programme, dealing with 80 houses on which Clearance Orders were made and these houses have now been demolished.

This has called for a very careful preparation of particulars of dilapidations, etc., in preparation for an Inquiry of the Ministry of Health. The tenants of the demolished houses have been re-housed in the various parts of the district. It was found necessary to carry out the disinfestation of certain bedding, furniture. etc., in 17 cases. Also 54 houses have been repaired and rendered reasonably fit for habitation.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

49 persons were granted licenses to slaughter animals in preparation for food during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There are now 34 registered or licensed slaughter houses in the district. These premises have been visited periodically, in some cases several times a week. The meat offered for sale in this district is of excellent quality, and I am pleased to state that I have met with every assistance from the butchers in the district in carrying out the provisions of the Regulations applying to this business. There has been surrendered and I have had destroyed—9 carcases of beef, portions of 3 carcases of beef, and 2 pigs.

I am, Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant,

SAMUEL BECK,

Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute, Cert. London San. Inspectors' Board,
Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.